

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DNI-00	DODE-00
	DOTE-00	DS-00	EB-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VCI-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NIMA-00
	ISNE-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	R-00	EPAE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 003953

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/16/2016

TAGS: PGOV, PINR, PREL, MX

SUBJECT: AT MASS RALLY, LOPEZ OBRADOR CALLS FOR CIVIL
DISOBEDIENCE

REF: MEXICO 3832

Classified By: ACTING POLITICAL CHIEF ALAN MELTZER, REASONS: 1.4(B/D).

1. (SBU) Summary: On Sunday, July 16, Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) presided over a mass march and "informational meeting" at which he demanded a complete, nationwide recount of the results of the Mexican presidential election. Estimates of the attendance at the event ranged from 300,000 to 1.5 million. During the rally, AMLO called for a campaign of peaceful civic disobedience -- the details of which will be decided later today -- to demonstrate the insistence of his supporters on a complete vote recount. He also called on his supporters to conduct vigils outside the 300 district offices of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE), allegedly to prevent tampering with the ballot boxes being stored there. AMLO urged his supporters to attend in even greater numbers another march and rally scheduled for Sunday, July 30. A PRD contact confirmed that AMLO had no intention of standing down unless the electoral tribunal (TEPJF) conducts the nationwide recount he demands. End

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summary.

A Million Man March?

2. (U) On Sunday, July 16, AMLO led a mass march of supporters down Paseo la Reforma, Mexico City's leading thoroughfare, terminating in a vast rally in the city's Zocalo, or central square. The PRD-led Mexico City Department of Public Security estimated the crowd at 1.1 million, although other estimates of the crowd ranged from 300,000 (MSNBC) to 700,000 (Notimex) to 1.5 million (the President of the PRD). Although the actual turnout is likely to remain in dispute, by all accounts the turnout was considerably heavier than at last week's event (ref A), which was estimated at between 150,000-280,000. According to press reports, what may have been the largest crowd in Mexico City history maintained a festive air, and no incidents of violence were reported. A PRD contact characterized the event as a great success, noting that the demonstration was legal and peaceful, and carried out so as to cause as little inconvenience as possible in the city.

AMLO Calls His Supporters to Action

3. (U) In his half-hour long remarks, AMLO called on his supporters to "defend the inalienable right of the people to freely elect their leaders." Reeling off a litany of alleged campaign violations and irregularities, AMLO demanded that the TEPJF order a nationwide recount, "vote by vote, ballot box by ballot box." He called on rival Felipe Calderon "to act in a responsible manner and to accept, without any pretexts" a nationwide recount. He added: "I recommend to you that for your own sake, for the sake of your relatives, for the sake of your closest supporters, I recommend that you realize that...the consummation of a fraudulent election cannot be erased...." He warned that a complete recount was essential for the political economic and financial stability of the country.

4. (U) In support of this demand, AMLO unveiled a three-pronged strategy. First, he called on his supporters to undertake continuous vigils outside IFE's 300 district offices, allegedly to prevent tampering with the ballot boxes being stored there. He added that these vigils would serve as centers of information and decision-making for his cause. Second, he called on his supporters to begin a strategy of peaceful civil disobedience, starting this week. He said he would form a citizens' committee to decide on the nature of

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such acts of civil disobedience. Finally, he called upon his supporters to return to Mexico City on Sunday, July 30, for a third mass march and "informational meeting;" he challenged his supporters to work to bring twice as many participants to the next rally.

5. (U) According to a PRD contact, AMLO is meeting July 17 with those civil society members who will form the so-called citizens' committee that will decide on a strategy of peaceful civil disobedience, to be announced in a press conference. Our contact said AMLO would not be satisfied if the TEPJF decided only to recount the votes in the approximately 50,000 precincts which he specifically contested. She said that he planned to continue the protests until the TEPJF undertook a complete, nationwide recount, adding that if the TEPJF failed to order such a recount, the

country risked becoming ungovernable.

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